[1st April 1961

Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 225 asked by Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st April 1961, page 145 supra.]

A.—(*a*) **The particulars regarding the agricultural co-operatives of various types functioning in the various districts as on 1st January 1961 are given below:—**

Serial number and name of the district. (1)	*Number of agricultural credit societies.* (2)	*Number of agricultural banks.* (3)	*Number of rural banks.* (4)	*Number of credit unions.* (5)	*Number of multi-purpose co-operative societies formed as adjuncts to credit unions.* (6)
1 Chingleput	757	33	3	18	58
2 Coimbatore	859	31	3	7	16
3 Kanyakumari	152	13	..	2	8
4 Madurai	961	42	1	9	33
5 Nilgiris	144	21	2	..	..
6 Ramanathapuram ..	830	20	2	38	152
7 Salem	660	37	2	..	..
8 Thanjavur	1,233	30	2	21	51
9 Tiruchirappalli ..	785	30	2	10	33
10 Tirunelveli	759	19	1	12	33
11 North Arcot	1,032	31	2	20	76
12 South Arcot	1,196	22	2	13	47
Total ..	9,368	329	22	150	507

(*b*) The agricultural co-operatives provide the farmers with short and medium-term loans for agricultural purposes, such as cultivation operations, purchase of seeds, fertilizers, agricultural implements, sinking or deepening of wells, installation of pump sets, etc. They charge $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum as interest on short-term loans and 7·2 per cent per annum as interest on medium-term loans. These rates are low when compared to the rate of interest levied by private money lenders. These societies also attend to certain service functions such as supply of agricultural requisites, arranging for the sale of the members' produce, advancement of loans to members on the pledge of their produce to enable them to hold their produce for a better market, provision of godown facilities, etc.

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(*c*) Government are extending financial assistance to the agricultural co-operatives for the following purposes ;—

(i) Subsidies are being allowed for the employment of paid managerial staff by the village societies newly organized and the societies taken up for development under the revitalization programme at the rate of Rs. 900 per society spread over a period of five years. In the case of agricultural banks and credit unions, such subsidies are allowed at the rate of Rs. 2,400 per bank or union spread over a period of three years and five years, respectively.

(ii) Financial assistance by way of loan up to Rs. 7,500 and subsidy up to Rs. 2,500 is being allowed to each agricultural or rural bank for the construction of office buildings with strong rooms for the safe custody of jewels and other valuables pledged with them by their members.

(iii) For the construction of godowns, rural credit societies are given assistance up to Rs. 10,000 per godown (Rs. 5,000 as loan and Rs. 5,000 as subsidy) and agricultural and rural banks up to Rs. 15,000 per godown (Rs. 10,000 as loan and Rs. 5,000 as subsidy).

(iv) The District Co-operative Central Banks are given subsidies for a period of three years on a tapering scale to enable them to employ necessary additional supervisory staff to supervise the agricultural co-operatives affiliated to them and help them in the matter of sanction and recovery of loans, writing up of accounts, etc.